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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Commission on Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities
Expert Meeting on Trade and Investment Impacts of Environmental Management Standards, Particularly the ISO 14000 Series, on Developing Countries
Geneva, 29-31 October 1997
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Provisional agenda and annotations

I. Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Possible trade and investment impacts of environmental management standards, particularly the ISO 14000 series, on developing countries, and opportunities and needs in this context
4. Adoption of the report

GE.97-51487

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

Item 1: Election of officers

It is recommended that the Expert Meeting elect a Chairperson and a Vice-Chairperson-cum-Rapporteur.

Item 2: Adoption of the agenda

The provisional agenda for the Meeting is in section I above. The schedule of meetings for the three days is attached to this document.

Documentation

TD/B/COM.1/EM.4/1	Provisional agenda and annotations

Item 3: Possible trade and investment impacts of environmental management standards, particularly the ISO 14000 series, on developing countries, and opportunities and needs in this context

The Meeting is convened pursuant to a decision by the Commission on Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities at the second part of its first session (19-21 February 1997). The objective is to "examine the operation, and the possible trade and investment impacts, of environmental management standards, particularly the ISO 14000 series, on developing countries, and the identification of possible opportunitiesand needs in this context".[1]

With a view to expediting substantive discussions of the Expert Meeting, the secretariat has prepared an issues paper entitled "Environmental management standards, particularly the ISO 14000 series: trade and investment impacts on developing countries" (TD/B/COM.1/EM.4/2).

The Expert Meeting is intended to enhance understanding of the issue under discussion, identify relevant factors determining the trade and investment effects of environmental management standards, in particular ISO 14001, on developing countries, and elucidate the types of policy choices that Governments and the business sector in developing countries are facing, or will be facing, in the context of environmental management standards, in particular in relation to issues in the field of international trade. The Expert Meeting could draw lessons from country-specific experiences.

In addition to an introductory session dealing with the operation of environmental management standards, the Expert Meeting could discuss four issues, as follows: (i) environmental management standards: possible trade and investment effects; (ii) certification and accreditation issues; (iii) needs of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs); (iv) needs of developing countries.

The results of the Expert Meeting will be submitted to the Commission on Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities, at its second session (17-21 November 1997) for action.

Documentation

TD/B/COM.1/EM.4/2	"Environmental management standards, particularly the ISO 14000 series: trade and investment impacts on developing countries".

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[1] Report of the Commission on Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities on its first session (TD/B/44/5 - TD/B/COM.1/6), annex I, part B, par. 3(b).

Item 4: Adoption of the report

The Expert Meeting will adopt its recommendations/findings/conclusions at the end of the session. The final report will be compiled under the authority of the Chairperson after the conclusion of the Meeting.

Schedule of meetings

Wednesday, 29 October	Thursday, 30 October	Friday, 31 October
10 a.m. Plenary: Opening of the Meeting Election of officers Adoption of the agenda Informals: Item 3	10 a.m. Informals (cont'd): Item 3	10 a.m. Informals (cont'd): Item 3
3 p.m. Informals (cont'd): Item 3	3 p.m. Informals (cont'd): Item 3	3 p.m. Informals (cont'd): Consideration of the draft text of recommendations or conclusions Plenary (closing): Adoption of the report